

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 04212 241520Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00
INRE-00 ICAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 ACDA-12
/090 W

-----037429 241523Z /53

Z O 241455Z JUL 78 ZFF4
FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC FLASH 1841
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK FLASH
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 4212

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, PDEV, SF, WA
SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: PROPOSED MESSAGE TO SOUTH AFRICA
ON WALVIS BAY

REF: USUN 2988

1. AT THE SUGGESTION OF BRITISH AMBASSADOR SCOTT, THE
PRETORIA FIVE MET THIS AFTERNOON TO CONSIDER TWO SUGGESTIONS
WHICH HE HAD RECEIVED FROM LONDON. THE FIRST WAS THAT THE
PRETORIA FIVE DRAFT SOME TALKING POINTS FOR USE BY THE WESTERN
REPRESENTATIVES IN THEIR EXPLANATION OF VOTE DURING
THE SECURITY COUNCIL'S CONSIDERATION OF THE WALVIS BAY
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RESOLUTION. LONDON'S IDEA WAS TO COME UP WITH A SET OF
TALKING POINTS THAT SEEM MOST LIKELY TO MEET THE
CONCERNS OF THE SAG AND, AFTER APPROVAL BY THE NEW
YORK CONTACT GROUP, TO DISCUSS THE TALKING POINTS WITH
THE SAG IN HOPES OF FORESTALLING THEIR PUBLIC CIRCULATION AT
THE UN OF VORSTER'S LETTER TO THE FIVE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT.

2. THE SECOND IDEA WAS A SUGGESTION FROM DAVID OWEN THAT THE LAST PARAGRAPH OF THE DRAFT MESSAGE TO SOUTH AFRICA CONTAINED IN REFTEL BE REWRITTEN TO INDICATE AN APPRECIATION THAT THERE WAS A NEED TO ALLAY SOUTH AFRICA'S CONCERNS AND TO STATE THAT WE WOULD BE DISCUSSING OUR PLANNED EXPLANATION OF VOTE WITH THEM.

3. AFTER SOME DISCUSSION IT WAS AGREED THAT GOING TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT WITH DRAFT TALKING POINTS WOULD SIMPLY INVITE STRONGER PRESSURE FROM THEM FOR CHANGES THAT WE PROBABLY COULD NOT MAKE. ACCORDINGLY, THE PRETORIA FIVE DRAFTED AN AMENDED VERSION OF THE FINAL PARAGRAPH OF THE DRAFT MESSAGE TO THE SAG FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE NEW YORK CONTACT GROUP AND THE FIVE CAPITALS, BUT NOT ON THE LINES SUGGESTED BY DAVID OWEN. THE REDRAFT FOLLOWS.

4. BEGIN TEXT: IN THE LIGHT OF THESE CONSIDERATIONS, WE BELIEVE THAT THE EXPLANATION OF VOTE WHICH OUR REPRESENTATIVES WILL MAKE IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL WILL FULLY ALLAY YOUR CONCERNS. WE THEREFORE EARNESTLY HOPE THAT YOU CAN AGREE NOT TO GO AHEAD AND PUBLISH YOUR MESSAGE. IN OUR EXPLANATION OF VOTE WE SHALL EMPHASIZE THAT ALL ASPECTS OF THE QUESTION OF WALVIS BAY MUST BE THE SUBJECT OF DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND THE ELECTED GOVERNMENT OF NAMIBIA. AS OUR HEADS
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OF GOVERNMENT HAVE ALREADY MADE CLEAR, THIS IS THE POSITION WE HAVE TAKEN AND IT IS THE POSITION WE SHALL CONTINUE TO TAKE PUBLICLY IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND IN THE FUTURE. WE BELIEVE THAT OUR PRESENTATION TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL WILL THUS ENABLE US TO MOVE FORWARD TOGETHER TOWARD AN EARLY INDEPENDENCE FOR NAMIBIA.
END TEXT.

5. IN ADDITION TO REDRAFTING THE LAST PARAGRAPH, THE PRETORIA FIVE RECOMMENDS DELETION OF THE WORDS "WE BELIEVE" IN THE THIRD SENTENCE OF THE THIRD PARAGRAPH OF THE DRAFT MESSAGE.

6. GIVEN THE TIME FACTOR, SIR DAVID SCOTT SAID THAT HE WOULD REFER HIS DRAFT TALKING POINTS DIRECT TO UK-UN. HE AGREED THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR THE PRETORIA FIVE TO DRAFT VOTE EXPLANATIONS TO FIT THE PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE AS IT MIGHT DEVELOP.
EDMONDSON

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Message Attributes

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Concepts: BRIEFING MATERIALS, WALVIS BAY
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Draft Date: 24 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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TAGS: PORG, PDEV, SF, WA
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